

Message Text

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65

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

PRS-01 TRSE-00 L-03 /075 W

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O 071319Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6235

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 9073

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, PINS: CPRS NI

SUBJECT: BRITISH AND EGYPTIAN OFFICERS OF CHASE MERCHANT BANK
ARRESTED.

1. NIGERIA POLICE, SPECIAL BRANCH, ON EVENING AUGUST 7 ARRESTED TWO OFFICERS OF CHASE MERCHANT BANK OF NIGERIA LTD. ARRESTED PERSONS ARE PETER G. BATES, U.K., MANAGING DIRECTOR, AND AZIZ FARAGALLAH, EGYPTIAN, MANAGER OF OPERATIONS. ARRESTS REPORTED TO EMBASSY BY MRS. GERLINDE BATES, GERMAN, WIFE OF PETER BATES, AND CLEMENS VON WEDEL, GERMAN, CREDIT MANAGER. VON WEDEL CONSIDERS IT LIKELY THAT HE ALSO WILL BE "INVITED FOR QUESTIONING", WHICH IS EUPHEMISM FOR HOLDING SUSPECTS INCOMMUNICADO IN POLICE CUSTODY DURING INVESTIGATIONS AND PENDING DECISION TO CHARGE WITH CRIME OR DEPORT.

2. CHASE PERSONNEL LINK THE ARRESTS TO A CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM PREPARED BY BATES FOR HOME OFFICE. CONTENTS OF MEMORANDUM, IF NOT AN ACTUAL COPY, BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES BY A FORMER SECRETARY WHO WAS TERMINATED LAST WEEK BY BATES FOR INCOMPETENCE. THE DISGRUNTLED SECRETARY IS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN MARRIED TO NIGERIAN.

3. INCIDENT HAS BEEN REPORTED TO BRITISH, EGYPTIAN AND GERMAN MISSIONS. PETER NICE, CHAIRMAN OF CHASE MERCHANT AND HEAD OF AFRICAN GROUP, CHASEMANHATTAN, NEW YORK, HAS BEEN INFORMED BY LONG
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DISTANCE TELEPHONE. HE REPORTEDLY PLANS TO COME TO NIGERIA TO

TRY TO SORT OUT PROBLEM.

4. WE SEE NO IMMEDIATE ROLE FOR DEPARTMENT OR EMBASSY AT MOMENT.
WILL ADVISE AS FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS OCCUR.
CAHILL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARRESTS, BANKERS, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LAGOS09073
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760305-0298
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760876/aaaacodu.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 SEP 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRITISH AND EGYPTIAN OFFICERS OF CHASE MERCHANT BANK ARRESTED.
TAGS: ECON, PINS, CPRS, NI, CHASE MERCHANT BANK OF NIGERIA LTD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006